

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 28th October 1876.

THE *Sáptábhik Samáchar*, of the 17th October, contains a highly eulogistic paragraph on the late Mr. Woodrow, and notices, with gratification, that his friends and admirers among the educated natives have already set on foot a movement to perpetuate his memory.

SAPTÁHIK SAMACHAR
October 17th, 1876.

2. Adverting to a rumour, that Lord Lytton has written to the Secretary of State, recommending the reduction of the number of holidays now enjoyed by the High Courts and the subordinate Civil Courts in India, the same paper writes as follows :—Does Lord Lytton intend by this measure to have his revenge on the High Court, which protested against his action in the Fuller case? In our opinion, there should be no reduction in the number of holidays. We do not, indeed, know the rule which obtains on this point in the High Courts of Bombay, Madras, and the North-Western Provinces, and the Civil Courts subordinate to them; and shall therefore confine our remarks only to the High Court at Calcutta, and Civil Courts in Bengal. A discontinuance of the long vacation, now allowed to the Calcutta High Court, would, of necessity, prevent a large number of suitors, pleaders, and mukhtears, who come from distant parts of the country, from leaving the metropolis, and thus celebrating the festivals prescribed by their religion at their native villages. The District Civil Courts, too, are placed at a great distance from one another. Are then, people, who may happen to live far from these Courts, to give up all acts of charity and piety, and spend their lives in litigation? Several other festivals closely follow the Durga Pujah, and the small number of holidays allowed on their account hardly enables one, while his suit is pending in the Court, to undertake a journey to his native village. Even if the suitors were thus inconvenienced, it would not at all be just to detain the witnesses from their religious festivals.

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3. The same paper makes the following observations on the recent removal, from Government service, of Baboo Kedar Nath Banerjee, the Subordinate Judge of Chittagong, for what the editor considers but an act of slight indiscretion :—Now, when an agitation is going on as to the promotion of native judicial officers to the District Judgeships, an Anglo-Indian contemporary has not hesitated to question their probity and impartiality; and to remark, that even the natives themselves have no great confidence in them. And should the facts of the present case ever come to his knowledge, what might not the worthy editor say. We shall not, however, now remark whether the fault, which has brought about the dismissal of Baboo Kedar Nath Banerjee, may not be, on enquiry, and is not occasionally really, found among the European Judges. We shall only say that the native officers are never

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viewed by Government with the same favor which leads it to overlook the shortcomings of the Europeans; nay, a sharp eye is always kept on their doings. A slight want of caution, therefore, on their part leads to certain dismissal.

The native judicial officers are, however, so cautious in this respect, that, fearing lest they should be charged with bias towards any party in a suit, who may happen to possess their acquaintance, they are not even willing to mix with gentlemen. This often lays them open to the charge of pride of office; but for all that we have not the least hesitation in saying that the people possess great confidence in their integrity. We wonder how such a question could have been raised at all.

SAPTARIK SAMACHAR,
October 17th, 1876.

4. The same paper writes the following, in another editorial:—Our present Lieutenant-Governor pleases the subjects exceedingly. He gives *Rhotas* parties, showers titles of distinction—Rajah and Roy Bahadoors—and, whenever invited, pleases the members of associations by presiding at their meetings. We doubt whether we shall ever have another Governor, who can speak so sweetly as he. By his own genius he has obtained the eulogiums of the sage *Hindu Patriot*, as well as of the scurrilous *Amrita Bazar Patriká*. He has honored the native authors, encouraged Englishmen to publish books in the vernacular, contributed largely to help Dr. Sarkar's Science Association, and is also busy collecting money for the College of Science projected by the Indian League. He has granted the citizens of Calcutta the power of electing their own Municipal Commissioners; while, at the same time, he has not forgotten to make the Chairman an absolute authority at the Municipal Board. He has written minutes to maintain the honor of the Ghosal family of Calcutta and the Jagannath of Mahesh, while he has not uttered a word of reproof to either the police in the one case, or the Magistrate in the other. His Honor has recently punished the Joint-Magistrate, Mr. Clay, of Rajshahye, who tried the now notorious "dog-case," by passing the very stringent order to stop his promotion for six months! We did not know before that the civilians obtained promotion every month; though we knew, on the contrary, that at present they labor under a retardment of promotion, and that to remove it they have represented their grievances to England.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
October 19th, 1876.

5. In the course of its opening editorial, on the subject of admitting the natives of this country into the higher Government services, the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 19th October, writes thus:—Recently a correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* expressed much fear, that if the higher offices of the State were conferred on us, we might gradually obtain our independence. But this fear is utterly groundless. The writer little knows the policy with which those, to whom the administration of this country is entrusted, conduct the affairs of Government. That policy is much against our liberty; so much so, that we cannot expect, even if the Governorship be opened to us, to obtain our independence. The English either do not know, or they will not allow, that, by granting the natives admission into its offices, the Government suffers nothing, but rather gains much. Those, among our countrymen, who enjoy the favor of our rulers are especially attached to the Government. They do not find any fault with it. They think that the Government does not commit any injustice or oppression. Had our rulers opened all the principal offices to the natives, there would have been no necessity of making the Seditions' Act, of keeping so many thousands of armed soldiers, of enacting the rigorous Penal Code, of introducing the strict Jail rules. Again, if what

has been feared by the writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, be really the fact, we ask does this bring disgrace or rather glory to the English nation? If India obtain its liberty through the excellent administration of the British Government, England will not be weakened, but rather strengthened. There will be no limit to its glory; and its fame will spread over all the face of the earth.

The *Englishman* has written, that the natives prefer European Judges to their own, and have greater confidence in the decisions of the former. We cannot speak of the whole of India; but we may, at least, say of Bengal that this is not true of its inhabitants, especially in civil suits. The natives of Bengal, whether young or old, believe that the Moonsifs and Subordinate Judges administer justice better than the District Judges. It is true that the people have the fullest confidence in the decisions of the Judges of the High Court; but this is owing to several causes. The Judges of the Court are men of superior talents and large experience; and have a vast deal of legal knowledge. The English judicial officers understand very little of the manners and customs of the people of this country.

The editor of the *Englishman* is a very learned man, and has passed the greater portion of his life here; but we think he also is unacquainted with our manners and customs and our sentiments.

Again, Mr. Cockerell has said that the English civilians are more competent men than the Moonsifs and the Subordinate Judges; but just the contrary to this has long been asserted by Sir Barnes Peacock, and recently by Sir Richard Temple. We are a weak people, and consequently we depend upon the Government for every thing; but we will not be sorry if it appoints men to the administrative offices after making them undergo a fair and impartial examination. We never asked the Government to confer Judgeships or Magistrateships on us without any such ordeal. Rules for admission into the Civil Service have been framed, but any attempt to enter the service is unfortunately so beset with difficulties and inconveniences that we cannot but depend upon the favor of the Government for obtaining the higher offices in the State. But if the means of attending this examination be made more easy, and the manifold difficulties surrounding it be removed, we shall have no longer to wait for the mercy of our rulers on the subject.

6. The same paper deeply laments the death of Mr. Woodrow, the late Director of Public Instruction, and says that this sad intelligence will be learnt with great and sincere grief by every class of people in Bengal. He was a great and learned man, and did much for the education of the natives, who have, no doubt, lost in him a kind and benevolent friend.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
October 19th, 1876.

7. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 19th October, writes that as the Court of Sessions does not sit every month, but at intervals, the defendants in criminal suits are exposed to a deal of trouble and inconvenience; because they, in the meantime, are kept in custody, whether at the end they be proved guilty or not. This is very unjust to men who may be found innocent; and asks why a defendant should remain so long imprisoned without a trial. This ruling of the Government of India is not at all consistent with justice or civilization, and should be at once abolished. The Government ought to make a new rule, that the Court of Sessions should sit every month, and thereby alleviate the miserable condition of the defendants.

BHARAT MIHIR,
October 19th, 1876.

8. Adverting to the notorious Weld case of Madras, the same paper writes that the Governor has inflicted condign punishment on the offender;

BHARAT MIHIR.

but we are sorry to say that Sir Richard Temple has awarded no adequate punishment to Mr. Kirkwood, of whom Mr. Weld is only counterpart. The Lieutenant-Governor has studied the character of man, and is perfectly acquainted with the art of pleasing others; but he is not thoroughly initiated in the science of just administration, otherwise this failure would not have occurred. He has not only given encouragement to hot-tempered Magistrates, by not inflicting due punishment on Mr. Kirkwood, but also has caused them to become bolder and more fearless in committing oppression and injustice on helpless natives. People hate the Government, owing to such conduct of the rulers. The Lieutenant-Governor has not even administered a reproof to many Magistrates in Bengal, who have committed acts not less oppressive and heinous than those of Mr. Weld.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
October 22nd, 1876.

9. A correspondent of the *Howrah Hitakarí*, of the 22nd October, directs the attention of the Magistrate of Howrah to the fearful prevalence of theft and robberies in the villages of Déulpore and Balarámpore, under thana Jagatballabhporé, in sub-division Howrah. Only one constable is posted to these places, and, as may be expected, he is not able to do much.

DACCA PRAKASH,
October 22nd, 1876.

10. In its opening editorial, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 22nd October, reproduces the observations of the *Sáptábhik Samáchár*, of the 10th instant, noticed in paragraph 1 of our last Report.

DACCA PRAKASH.

11. The same paper writes a highly appreciative editorial on the late Mr. Woodrow, and laments the strange fatality which seems to be at work among the officers of the Education Department.

SOMA PRAKASH,
October 23rd, 1876.

12. Adverting to the letter of a correspondent, on the subject of precedence, to be accorded to the Native Princes, who are invited to attend the approaching Grand Assemblage at Delhi, the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 23rd October, advises Government to make no distinction of rank among the guests; or, should it be really necessary to do so, it would be well to settle the question of precedence by making it manifest in their respective salutes. The editors of newspapers, especially of those published in the vernacular, should all be honored with an invitation.

SOMA PRAKASH.

13. The same paper, in a long article on Trial by *Pancháyets*, dwells on the advantages and suitability of the system to the circumstances of this country, where it prevailed for a long time. It is free from the expense and trouble which now attends an application to the courts; and will not foster that litigious spirit which, under the present system of law courts, is ruining the people. The Government, indeed, has recognized the utility of puncháyets, and there is a provision in the Civil Laws for referring cases to them. But this practice is seldom resorted to, perhaps from a fear, which seems to be entertained by judicial officers, that such a course will lead to a diminution of law suits, and thus to a decrease of the stamp revenue. It is also worthy of note that, while Government appoints natives as Honorary Magistrates and even jurors in Sessions cases, they are not entrusted with small civil causes. We therefore propose that Government should appoint puncháyets for trying civil suits, and jurors or assessors for deciding civil suits in appeal. Now that Mr. Hobhouse is engaged in revising the Civil Procedure Code, the suggestions made above should receive his attention. We further propose that, on the institution of every suit, the parties should be called on to refer their case to a puncháyet, and to show adequate cause for their refusal, or the party so defaulting should be made to pay the costs of the suit. The members of the puncháyet should be vested with authority to

summon, and even to arrest witnesses ; and the verdict of the majority of the members should prevail.

14. The same paper observes, in reference to the question of the fearful infant mortality which, according to Dr. Payne, prevails in Calcutta among the Hindu and Mahomedan populations, that Government might check it by a very simple means. It should be ruled that accouchement rooms should be kept clean, dry, and possessed of thorough ventilation ; and that an infringement of this rule will be punishable. This will not be in any way an interference with the religion of the subjects, and cannot but be gratifying to them in the end.

SOMA PRAKASH,
October 23rd, 1876.

15. The same paper fully approves of the sections 320 and 321 of the revised Civil Procedure Code Bill, and is of opinion that they will be productive of great good. The editor does not understand why the *Hindu Patriot* is opposed to them.

SOMA PRAKASH.

16. A correspondent of the same paper dwells on the advisability of creating a sub-division in the Beerbhoom district ; which, though reduced, is not altogether small in extent, so that the inhabitants have to resort from a long distance to the head-quarters. The attention of the Officiating Commissioner is directed to the subject.

SOMA PRAKASH.

17. The *Sahachar*, of the 23rd October, condemns the action of Sir Richard Temple regarding Mr. Rattray, the District Superintendent of Police of Chittagong, the only officer who ably and faithfully discharged his duty in connection with the Fennua cases.

SAHACHAR,
October 23th, 1876.

18. The *Behar Bandhu* says, that the *Dewali* festival passed off with less *eclat* this year than formerly, especially with respect to illuminations, for the Rajahs and Maharajahs here showed more than ordinary interest in the reception of the Commissioner. Gambling has been, and is still, going on to a considerable extent ; and the police were, in some places, seen taking a share in it.

BEHAR BANDHU,
October 18th, 1876.

19. After noticing the action taken by the Muhammadans of Poonah and Bombay in respect of the Turkish war, the same paper goes on to remark that, Patna excepted, the Musalmen of all the other parts of Hindustan do not appear to have in the least deteriorated from their original sense and feeling of independence, or their attachment to their religion. The first thought in the minds of the Muhammadans of Patna is, how the Commissioner *Sahib* may be made happy ; because it is through his recommendation they hope to attain to the rank of *Nababs* and *Khán Báhádoors*. What can they get by sending money to Turkey ?

BEHAR BANDHU.

20. The editor of the *Urdu Guide*, in placing before his readers a full account of the Muhammadan meeting held at Náwab Amír Ali Khán Báhádoor's house, embraces the opportunity of laying before them a correct statement of the reasons, which led to the proceedings of the Town Hall Committee being ignored by the general body of the faithful in Calcutta. They were exceedingly displeased at the course pursued by the then President, who not only went the length of making allusions in his speech to matters quite foreign to the object for which the meeting had assembled, but went out of his way to reproach the Turkish Government, and to speak in disrespectful terms of Sultans Abdul Azíz Khán and Murád Khán. This led to the withdrawal of about one-third of the members at once. It was subsequently determined that the proceedings of the Town Hall meeting be

URDU GUIDE,
October 21st, 1876.

declared null and void, and another be held. At this last, the former president still persisted in saying that he was quite right in what he had uttered with respect to the *Madras Mail* and the *Urdu Guide*, and that all the former proceedings should be declared valid. Notwithstanding this protest, a new meeting was held, which directed its attention solely to the matter before it, and Rs. 12,406 were promised on the spot in aid of Turkey.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 28th October 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
28th October 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Sáptábhik Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	17th October 1876.
2	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
3	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
5	"Howrah Hitakarí" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
6	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
7	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
8	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
9	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
10	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	19th, to 23rd and 25th October 1876.
11	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	18th to 24th October 1876.
12	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	20th to 25th October 1876.
13	"Behár Bandhu" (in <i>Hindi</i>) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Weekly ...	18th October 1876.
14	"Jám-Jahán-numá" (in <i>Persian</i>) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
15	"Urdu Guide" (in <i>Urdu</i>) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.